

THE MORNING SUN.

"IF IT'S RIGHT WE'RE FOR IT"

Issued Daily Except Monday, at Tallahassee, Florida.

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CLAUDE L'ENGLE, Editor

EDITORIAL.

This news paper belongs entirely to the people of Florida. The expenses of its publication are met from a fund made up by the people of Florida.

This fund was turned over to me for this purpose—because in the fullness of their charity, the contributors confided in my humble capacity and limited experience to use it well, and in the integrity of my purpose to use it only for good, in strict conformity with the impulse that prompted them to raise it.

When asked to edit it, I said that I would be glad to do it, IF I WERE LEFT ENTIRELY FREE. I reminded them that the motto of The Sun was—"If it's right, we are for it," and that a paper sailing under this flag, carried NOTHING BUT TRUTH AND GOOD INTENT for ballast.

This accounts for the Morning Sun. I ask all good men to help me.

CLAUDE L'ENGLE.

GOOD LAWS THAT ARE NEEDED.

Counting today there are but 16 days left of the Legislative Session of 1909.

There are eighty-six pages of the House Calendar and fifty-two pages of the Senate Calendar.

It is manifestly impossible to enact but a small per centum of these bills.

There are many bills on the calendar that should be enacted, but there are so many of these good bills, that the limited space this paper has, makes it impossible to enumerate all of them.

It will endeavor, from time to time, to call attention to those that, in my humble judgment and somewhat limited experience, are the most meritorious. This will be done without disparagement, expressed or intended, to any good bill now before the Legislature.

It is imperatively necessary that increased revenue be provided. The state is six hundred thousand dollars behind in its appropriation for last year, and this is exclusive of pensions of which there will be a deficiency of a large amount. Add to this amount the necessary current expenses for the next two years, and it will be readily seen that it will be necessary to raise by taxation upwards of two and a half million dollars. In the year of 1908, there was disbursed for all state purposes the sum of \$2,042,782, if to this the deficiency now existing is added, the sum will be nearly two and three-fourths millions.

Outside of direct taxation there is but little revenue coming into the State. There are several bills that will raise revenue now pending. One of them is the franchise tax bill, another the fish and oyster bill, and another the inheritance tax bill.

All of these bills should be well considered and if found to be good passed.

There is another bill pending, which provides for a board of state assessors. This bill places the taxing power on railroad and telegraph property in the hands of three, the Comptroller, Attorney-General and the chairman of the Railroad Commission. It is a wholly meritorious bill, and as it does not change the law in any other respect, it ought not to take long for the legislature to pass this.

Then there is a child labor bill, which makes the law effective by providing for its enforcement. This Legislature having made such a reputation for protecting the birds, beasts and gophers, should not adjourn without putting this law on the statute books that will protect children.

Then there is the anti-gambling law, which should be passed, there being no argument against this that should be considered, the only semblance of an argument being that it might hurt business in one Florida town, but even this argument will fall to the ground when the figures from other states are considered which show that race track gambling takes more out of a town than it brings in.

Florida has twelve hundred miles of seacoast, which is very much more than any other state in the Union. It can be made the fish and oyster state of the Union. No fish and oyster legislation worthy of the name has been enacted.

Rhode Island, which can be dumped into the middle of lake Okeechobee, gets one hundred thousand dollars a year from oysters alone, and other states in proportion. If the proper fish and oyster bill is enacted, and there are bills now pending that are good bills, Florida need not levy any direct taxes. The revenue from this industry would pay all the expenses of the State government.

These are but few of the many bills that should be enacted, and as I said, I will endeavor to call attention from time to time to legislation that seems to be needed, and to the necessity upon this Legislature to enact certain laws.

CLEARING UP MATTERS.

And person who would wilfully hurt the feelings or in any way injure another person, by perpetrating a joke at his expense, is an improper person guilty of conduct unworthy of a man.

One has no right to gratify his propensity to joke at the expense of others unless he does it without malice or evil intent. When jokes are perpetrated in newspapers, they should be free from any intention to injure and they should be so carefully worded that no one can fail to understand them as pleasantries.

I have permitted some jokes to appear in the columns of this paper. They were intended as jokes. They were printed in the hope that the deadly dullness of the Legislative Session might be somewhat enlivened. They were as innocent of guile or of intended injury as the friendly jest of one man about another should be.

In the fear that some persons might have misunderstood these poor little attempts at humor, I desire to make this public denial of any intention

to do anything else than to perpetrate innocent jokes on several gentlemen by repeating certain things that were pleasantly passed among the members and the visitors from time to time.

I have mentioned in this manner, Mr. Hull of Manatee, Mr. Calkins of Nassau, Mr. Stokes of Escambia, Mr. Harry Bethel, military Secretary of the Governor, Mr. Light, Mr. Wells, and others.

It was not my intention to take a back-handed slap at any one of these gentlemen. I hope that my newspaper work has been of a sufficiently straight-forward, open nature to acquit me of getting around the corner to hit anybody.

I have generally managed to deliver such statements that I felt called upon to make from the front, without any dodging or trimmings.

Anything that might have been written in the humorous style about any of the gentlemen mentioned or any other gentlemen is not to be taken in any sense but one of pleasantry, nor was it to be considered but a perfectly innocent attempt to inject a little humor into the Legislative Session of 1909.

I trust that no one will think otherwise.

It did not occur to me that there was any danger that anyone should think otherwise, but for fear that there might be some one, I write this.

Whenever I want to say anything about a man, or to discuss any public matter in a disapproving way, I will make my language perfectly plain. This is what I have always done and this is what I will always do.

I would scorn to use the vehicle of pleasantry to hit any man, even my enemy. I would certainly not use it gratuitously to inflict pain or humiliation on one who is not an enemy to myself or to the public service.

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